Mark L. Hoffman is the Commission's Maryland Director, and the most recent addition to the Commission staff. A life-long Maryland resident, his interests in the environment and conservation where nurtured by becoming interested in birds and birding at an early age, a passion he still pursues today. After graduating from Cornell University (B.A., Biology) and the University of Florida (M.S., Wildlife Ecology), Mark began a 31-year career with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Ultimately advancing to the position of Assistant Secretary for Mission Support, he oversaw all the finance and administration functions for the \$300 million agency. And given his science background, he was always able to bring that expertise to bear on administrative and budget concerns. Mark also had extensive engagement with the Maryland General Assembly on fiscal and policy issues, a skill-set well suited for the Commission.